

NOAA Marine Debris Program

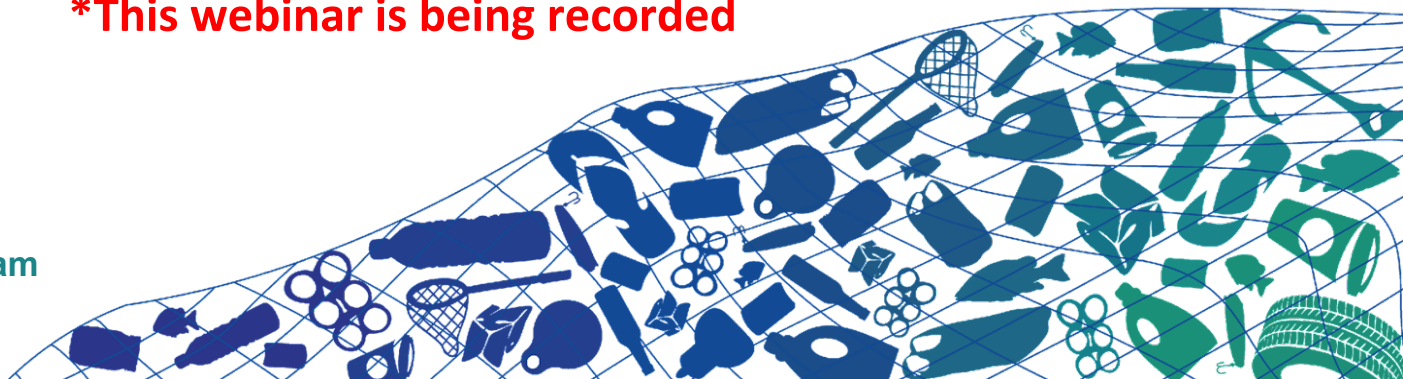
FY24 Marine Debris Removal Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Grant Applicant Webinar

***This webinar is being recorded**

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NOAA Marine Debris Program

September 12, 2023



Agenda

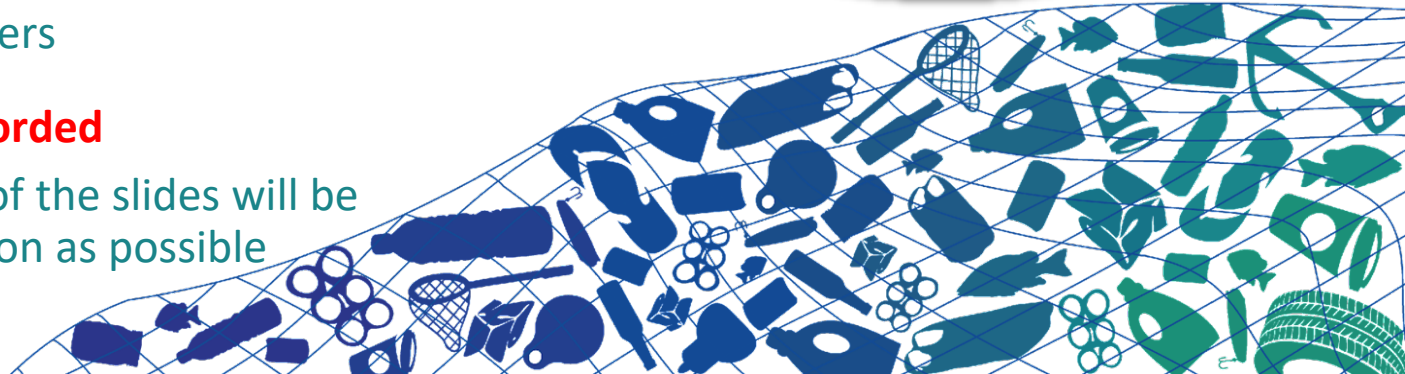
- The NOAA Marine Debris Program
- Funding Availability
- Eligible/Non-eligible Applicants
- Competition Priorities
- Competition Process
- Application Content & Resources
- Evaluation Criteria
- Application Tips & Submission Instructions
- Anticipated Timeline
- Questions & Answers



Photo: NOAA

This webinar is being recorded

The recording and a PDF of the slides will be made available as soon as possible

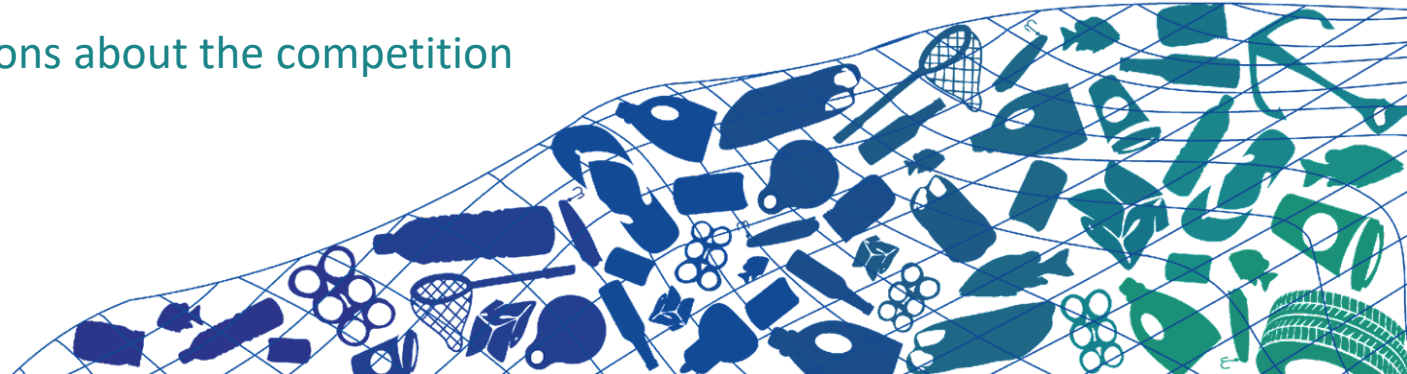


Goals of today's webinar:

- 1) Communicate expectations for proposal submissions
- 2) Provide overview of application submission process
- 3) Share anticipated timeline and overview of award process
- 4) Answer your questions about the competition



Photo: NOAA



NOAA Marine Debris Program

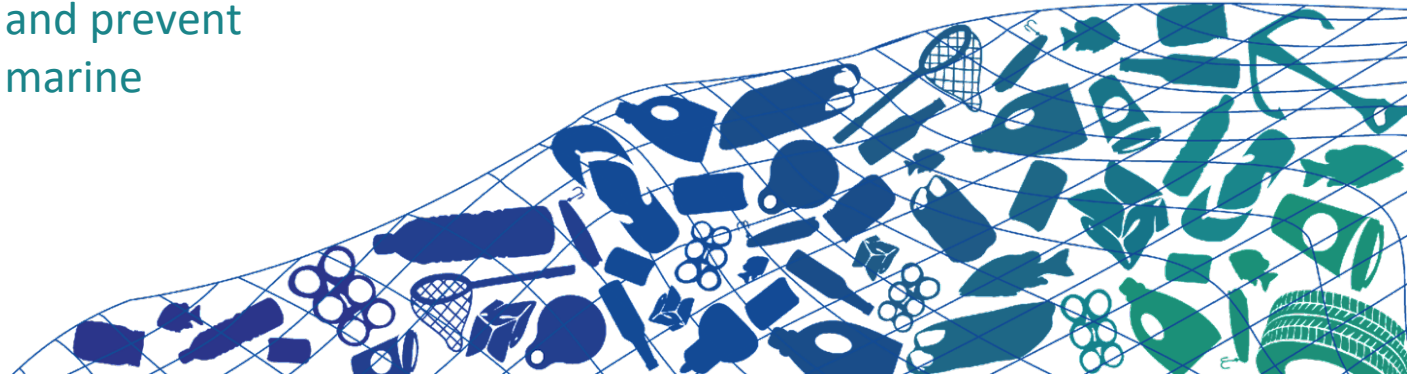
Established in **2006** by Congress as the federal lead for marine debris

Vision: the global ocean and its coasts free from the impacts of marine debris

Mission: to investigate and prevent the adverse impacts of marine debris



Photo: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources



Regional Contacts

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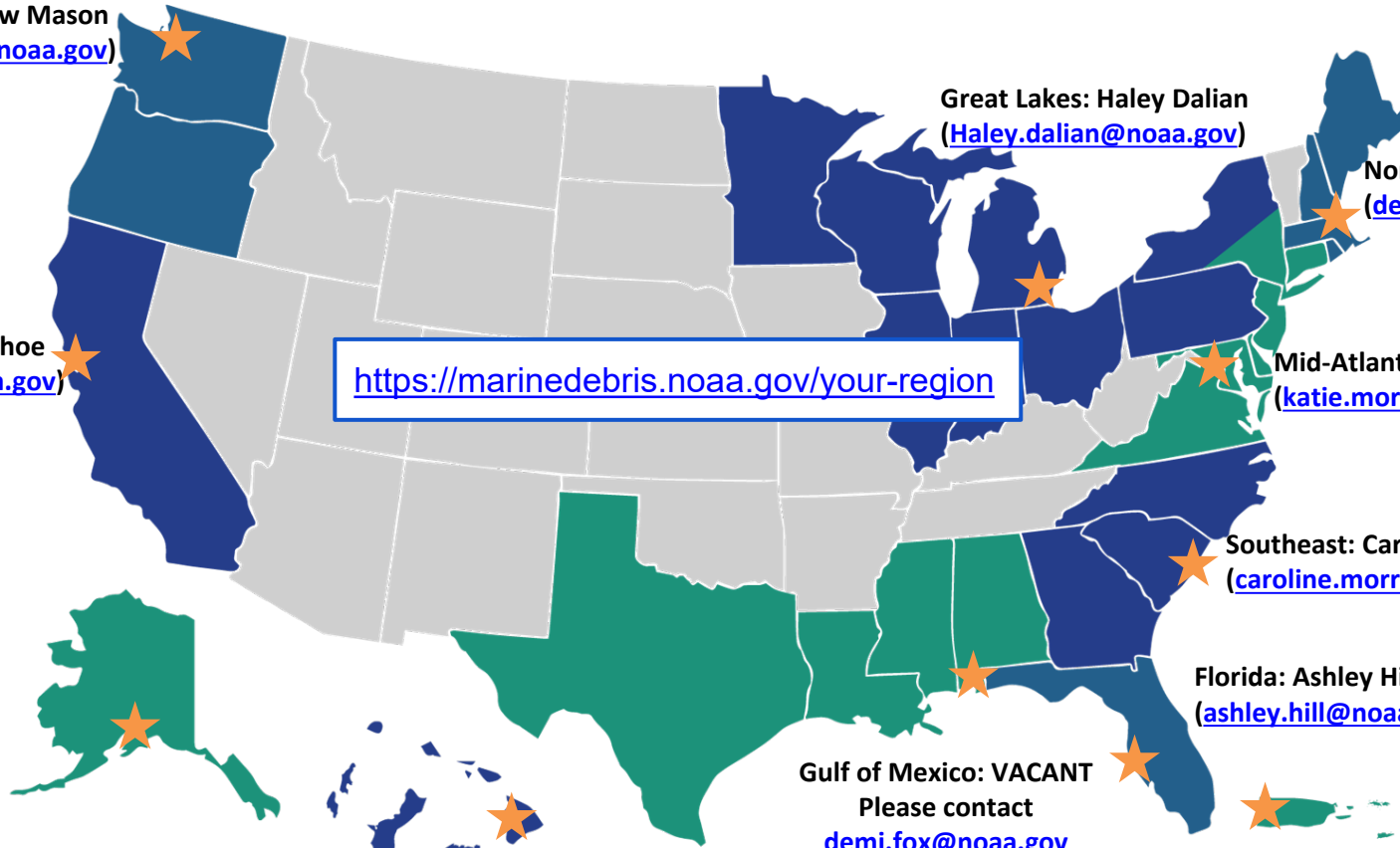
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Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Climate Ready Coasts

\$1.467 billion

Helping coastal communities build the future they want to see. Investing in high-impact natural infrastructure projects that build coastal resilience, create jobs, store carbon, and restore habitat.



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Climate Ready Coasts

10. NERR System

\$77 million

9. CZM

\$207 million

8. Marine Debris - OAR

\$50 million

7. Marine Debris - NOS

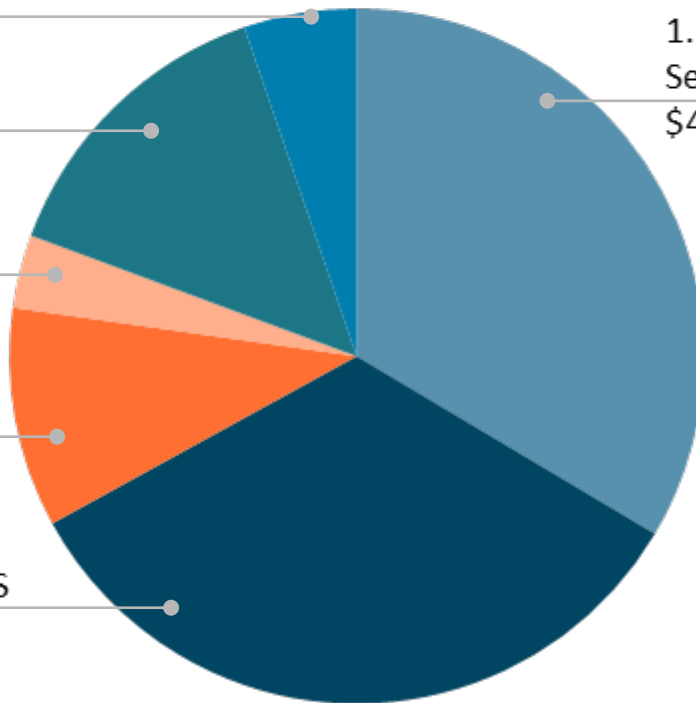
\$150 million

2. Habitat Restoration - NMFS

\$491 million

1. National Oceans and Coastal
Security Fund Grants

\$492 million



FY22-23 Projects

\$54.5M BIL

\$12.64M IRA



Large Marine Debris Removal



11 Projects

\$1.4M-\$15M

4 subaward competitions

Interception Technology



2 Projects

\$269k-\$748k



FY24 Funding Availability

- Up to \$24M available
- Minimum Request: \$800,000
- Maximum Request: \$6M
- Typical Awards: \$1M - \$4M
- Matching funds not required, but strongly encouraged; will be evaluated
 - Cost sharing
 - Leveraged funds
 - In-kind support





Eligible Applicants

- State, local, tribal, territory, and freely associated states governments whose activities affect research or regulation of marine debris
- Institutions of higher education
- Nonprofits
- Commercial (for-profit) organizations with expertise in a field related to marine debris



Photo: NOAA



Non-Eligible Applicants

- Federal agencies or employees of federal agencies
 - Interested federal agencies may collaborate with eligible applicants but may not receive funds through this competition
- Foreign public entities, individuals, and organizations from outside of U.S. and Freely Associated States are not eligible to apply
 - Transboundary projects may involve foreign organizations, however projects must primarily take place within the coastal U.S., territories, and FAS.





Competition Priorities

1. *Support impactful, large marine debris removal projects*

- Clearly demonstrate the beneficial impacts the removal project will have on NOAA trust resources, and the surrounding coastal environment or community.

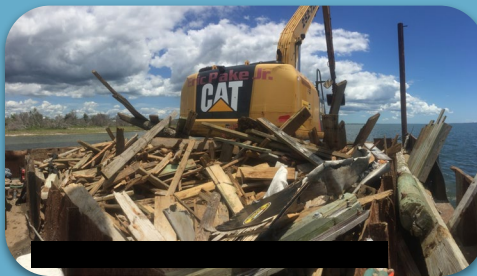
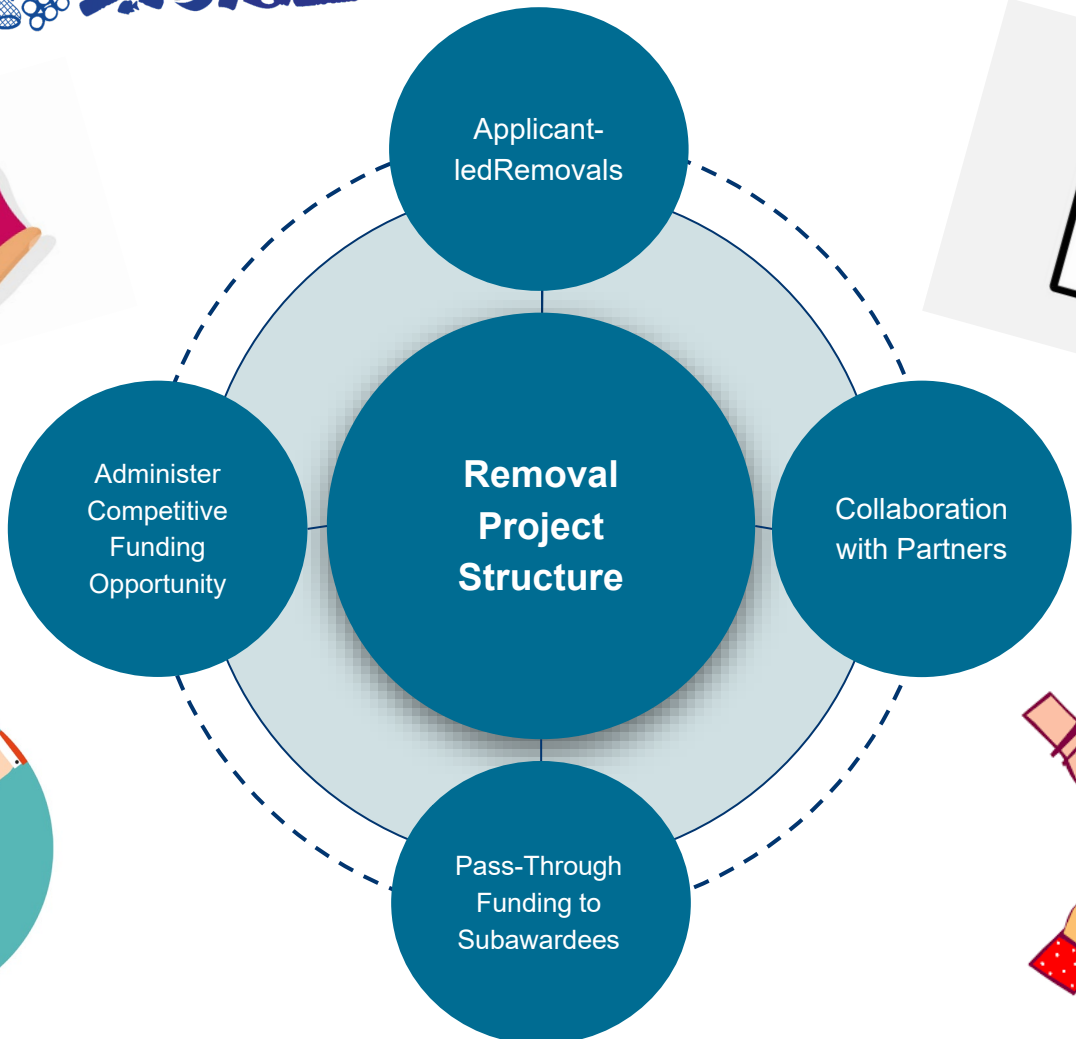


Photo: City of Hoboken, NJ

*When selecting proposals for this competition, NOAA will consider the proposals in the context of already-funded projects, including projects that received funding through previous Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Marine Debris Removal Grants, to avoid duplication of removal efforts in similar locations





Competition Priorities

2. __NOAA will prioritize applications that demonstrate clear removal and disposal outcomes

- Clear target removal metrics (pounds removed)
- Removals should be conducted with a focus on *alternative disposal methods* when possible
 - Examples may include:
 - Reuse
 - Waste-to-energy
 - Recycling
 - Or other innovative disposal methods



Photo: NOAA



Competition Priorities

3. *Removal projects that include strategies to prevent the reaccumulation of marine debris in the future may be prioritized*

- Prevention activities should aim to reduce the recurrence of the type of debris removed.
- Examples:
 - Development or expansion of state-, regionally-, or nationally-focused marine debris prevention programs
 - Vessel or fishing gear turn-in opportunities
 - Vessel or fishing gear recycling programs
 - Targeted programs working with boaters, fishermen, or other relevant stakeholders, etc.





Competition Priorities

4. *Removal projects that include monitoring activities to demonstrate long-term outcomes are encouraged*

- Monitoring = project-specific, pre- or post-removal data collection of ecological metrics (large debris accumulation over time, habitat/species impacts, changes in ecosystem services, vegetation, etc.) are analyzed to show the effect of the removal project.
- Long-term outcomes = the anticipated benefits to habitats, communities, and the economy.



*All monitoring activities must be complementary to proposed large-debris removal efforts.



Competition Priorities

5. *Incorporate diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and accessibility*

- Applicants should describe any project activities that will take place within, have a portion of the benefits flow to, and/or meaningfully engage Tribal or underserved communities.
 - Meaningful engagement refers to an intentional exchange between the applicant and the underserved community where both have multiple opportunities to ensure the other is correctly understanding each other's perspectives and ideas
- Greater consideration will be given to projects that propose to work in areas with underserved communities that have been historically marginalized and overburdened by pollution.





Competition Process

Letter of Intent (LOI)

The Letter of Intent (LOI) submission is a critical step to determine if proposed projects are well-suited for this specific competition.

Applicants must submit a LOI **[via email]** and receive an invitation from the NOAA MDP before submitting a full proposal.

Review & Invite Only

NOAA MDP Reviews LOIs and provides feedback and guidance on invited application ideas.

Those applicants invited to submit a full proposal will receive an email notification containing feedback and full proposal submission instructions from NOAA MDP.

Full Proposal

Applicants may only submit a full proposal if invited to do so by the NOAA MDP.

Applicants are required to apply through the Grants.gov website.

Projects Recommended for Funding

NOAA may select all, some, or none of the applications, or part of any application, ask applicants to work together or combine projects.

The exact amount of funds to be awarded, and other changes will be determined in pre-award negotiations.





Letter of Intent Content

- A. **Applicant Organization**
- B. **Project Title**
- C. **Principal Investigator(s)** Contact Info; PI/Organizational experience or expertise; Primary project partners and their roles and/or contributions
- D. **Project Location:** List the geographic area(s) in which the project will be implemented. Include geographic coordinates of removal sites if known.
- E. **Project Description:**
 - a. Purpose and list of tasks to be completed.
 - b. Identify debris type and include explanation as to why this was chosen.
 - c. ID mechanism for the distribution of funds.
 - d. Describe proposed techniques to be used and duration.
 - e. Describe any associated prevention and/or monitoring activities.
- F. **Anticipated removal activity start date** (not the proposed award start date)
- G. **Funding:** Approximate federal funds being requested and approximate non-federal match or informal leverage anticipated.
- H. **Project Outcomes & Metrics:** Project benefits to NOAA trust resources, coastal communities, and/or local economies; Describe project metrics expected to be tracked.
- I. **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, & Accessibility:** Indicate how the project demonstrates principles of DEIJA through proactive, meaningful, and equitable community engagement in the identification, design, and/or implementation of proposed projects; Identify if project activities will take place within, have a portion of the benefits flow to, and/or meaningfully engage Tribal or underserved communities and how those benefits will be measured.



Application Resources

[NOAA MDP Guidance for Applicants](#)

- [LOI Templates](#)
- [NOFO Guidance Document](#)
- [Evaluation Criteria Table](#)
- [Community Engagement for Removal Projects Guidance](#)
- [Budget Narrative and SF-424A guidance documents](#)
- [Applicant Cost-sharing Guidance](#)
- [Data Management Plan Guidance](#)
- [Letter of Support/Commitment Guidance](#)

U.S. Department of Commerce | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | National Ocean Service

NOAA **Marine Debris Program** OFFICE OF RESPONSE AND RESTORATION

WHO WE ARE | **DISCOVER MARINE DEBRIS** | OUR WORK | IN YOUR REGION | RESOURCES | MULTIMEDIA | BLOG

Home > Resources > Funding Opportunities > FY24 NOAA Marine Debris Removal under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Applicant Resources

FY24 NOAA Marine Debris Removal under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Applicant Resources

The NOAA Marine Debris Program will award up to \$24 million through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to support the removal of large marine debris throughout the coastal United States, Great Lakes, territories, and Freely Associated States. These removal projects should focus on large marine debris, including abandoned and derelict vessels, derelict fishing gear, and other debris that is generally unable to be collected by hand.

Application Deadlines:

Required Letter of Intent Deadline: Friday, October 27, 2023
Full Proposal Deadline: Friday, February 23, 2024*

**Full proposals will only be accepted from applicants that received an invitation to submit a full proposal following review of the letters of intent*

On Our Radar

- Garbage Patches
- Project Clearinghouse





LOI Evaluation Criteria

- 1) How likely is it that the project will have **impactful benefits to NOAA trust resources, and the surrounding coastal environment or community** (as described in Section I.B)? Does the LOI clearly describe the anticipated ecological and socio-economic outcomes that the project is expected to produce, including how the project benefits will be sustained beyond the life of the project? Are project metrics described and estimates provided? (30%)
- 1) Does the LOI **clearly identify the project's overall goals and objectives and lay out a realistic and cost-effective approach**? How well developed are the proposal ideas at this stage? Does it clearly state the purpose of the project and specific tasks to be accomplished with requested funds and clearly describe proposed techniques that will be used? (20%)
- 1) Does the organization demonstrate the **capabilities, experience, or expertise that would lead to a successful effort**? Organizations demonstrating high levels of technical and administrative expertise or capability are likely to score higher on this criterion. (15%)
- 1) Does the LOI include **prevention activities**? Is there an appropriate and effective level of prevention activities to be conducted about the identified marine debris issue to prevent reaccumulation? Is a target audience identified? (20%)
- 1) Does the project demonstrate how **diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and accessibility** will be promoted in the proposed work? Does the proposal describe proposed activities taking place in Tribal and/or underserved communities and whether a portion of the benefits will flow to those communities and how those benefits will be measured? Does the project include meaningful engagement with Tribal or underserved communities? Projects that indicate a high likelihood of a realized benefit and meaningful engagement (see Section I.B) with the community in developing the proposal and executing the project activities will score higher on this criterion. Applicants that reference CEJST (<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov>) will score higher in this criterion. If CEJST does not have adequate data to identify a community as disadvantaged, applicants should outline other identifying burdens that define that community as underserved. (15%)



Application tips

- Adobe PDF is the preferred file format for all application attachments
 - Please minimize the number of files uploaded by combining relevant files when possible
- Please carefully read through the NOFO for important details for creating and submitting your application that were not covered today

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Federal Agency Name(s): National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce

Funding Opportunity Title: FY24 NOAA Marine Debris Removal under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NOS-ORR-2024-2007993

Federal Assistance Listings Number: 11.999, Marine Debris Program

Dates: ATTENTION: This competition will have a pre-proposal requirement (hereafter described as a Letter of Intent; LOI). Please note the competition's early submission deadline for this requirement.





Submission Instructions

- Applicants must submit a LOI and receive an invitation from the NOAA MDP before submitting a full proposal!
- LOIs must be submitted as an *email attachment* to grants.marinedebris@noaa.gov by 11:59 pm Eastern time on October 27, 2023.
 - Please put “*FY24 NOAA Marine Debris Removal Letter of Intent (LOI)*” in the email subject heading.
- An email confirmation will be sent indicating successful submission of the LOI. If no confirmation email is received, that is an indication that the LOI submission was not successful and will not be reviewed. In such cases please contact the NOAA MDP to resolve the issue prior to the deadline.
- For this reason, it is highly recommended that LOIs are submitted early!



Anticipated Timeline

*some steps of this process are outside of NOAA MDP control so timeframe may change

Step	Timeframe
1. Letters of Intent (LOIs) due to grants.marinedebris@noaa.gov	11:59 PM ET Oct 27, 2023
2. LOI review by NOAA to select LOIs to recommend for full proposals	Nov 2023
3. Applicants selected are invited to submit full proposals	early Dec 2023
4. NOAA MDP Webinar for Full Proposal Applications (invitees only)	January 2024
5. Full Proposals for invited applicants are due to grants.gov (invitees only)	11:59 PM ET Feb 23, 2024
6. Full proposal review by NOAA to select projects to recommend for funding	Mar - Apr 2024
7. Projects recommended for funding are notified and negotiation calls are conducted to address any modifications to the proposal or budget; Unsuccessful applicant letters are distributed; Environmental Compliance begins	May 2024
8. NOAA Grants Management provides official approval of awards, NOAA MDP has kick off call with grantees proposed project activities can begin	late summer/early fall 2024





Other Marine Debris Funding through BIL

- **NOAA-NOS-ORR-2024-2007991: *FY24 NOAA Marine Debris Interception Technologies under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law***
 - Support the installation, monitoring, and maintenance of proven marine debris interception technologies
- **National Sea Grant College Program:**
 - Marine debris funding in FY24
 - **Look for future announcements here: <https://seagrant.noaa.gov/marine-debris/>**



Submitted Questions



Please reach out with any questions

- For questions about this competition please email the MDP Grants Team (grants.marinedebris@noaa.gov)
- For project-based questions related to the particular region of your proposed work please contact the appropriate NOAA MDP Regional Coordinator (see next slide for contact info)



Regional Contacts

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Northeast: Demi Fox
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Southeast: Caroline Morris
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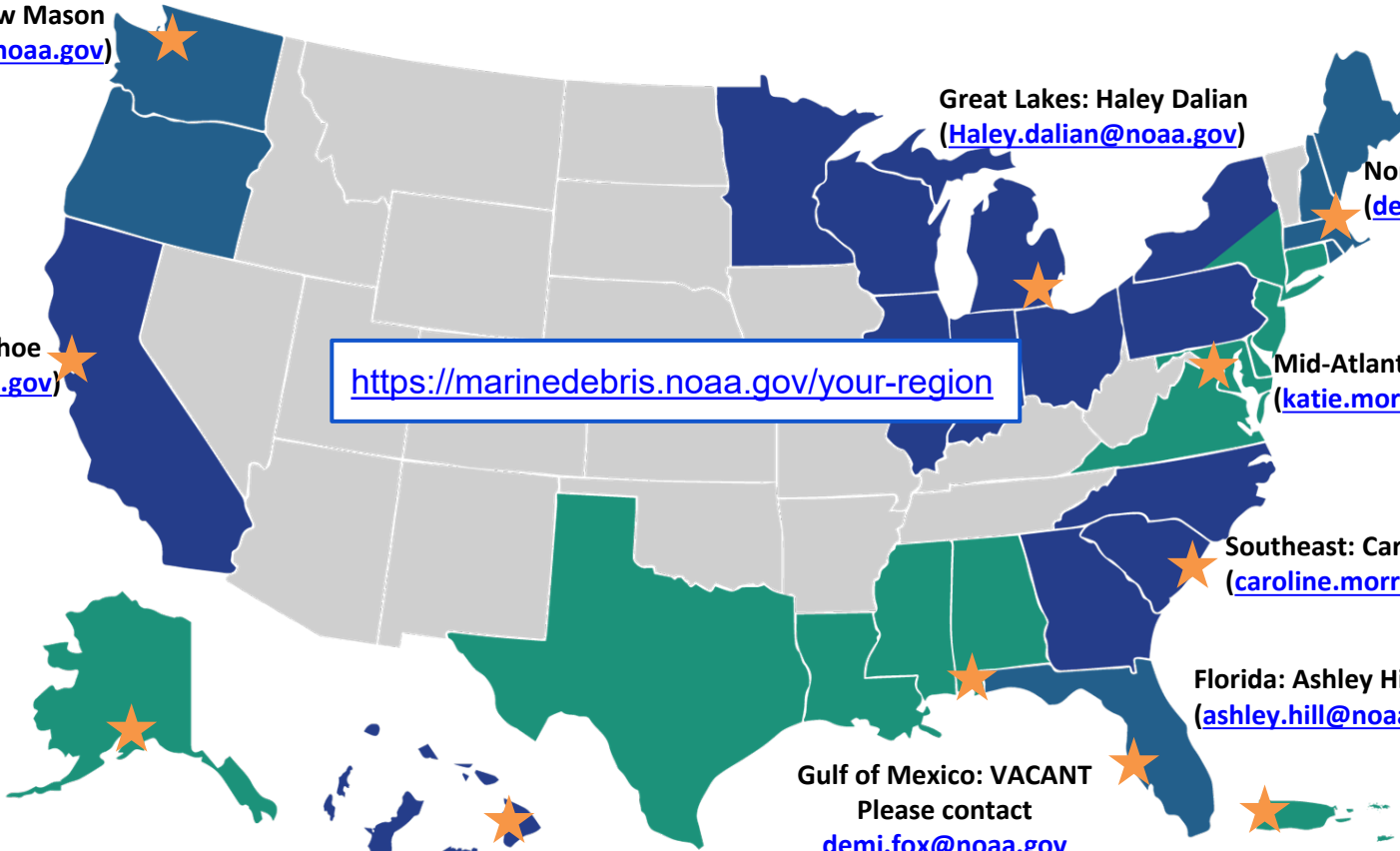
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Thank you for joining!